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Secret Star





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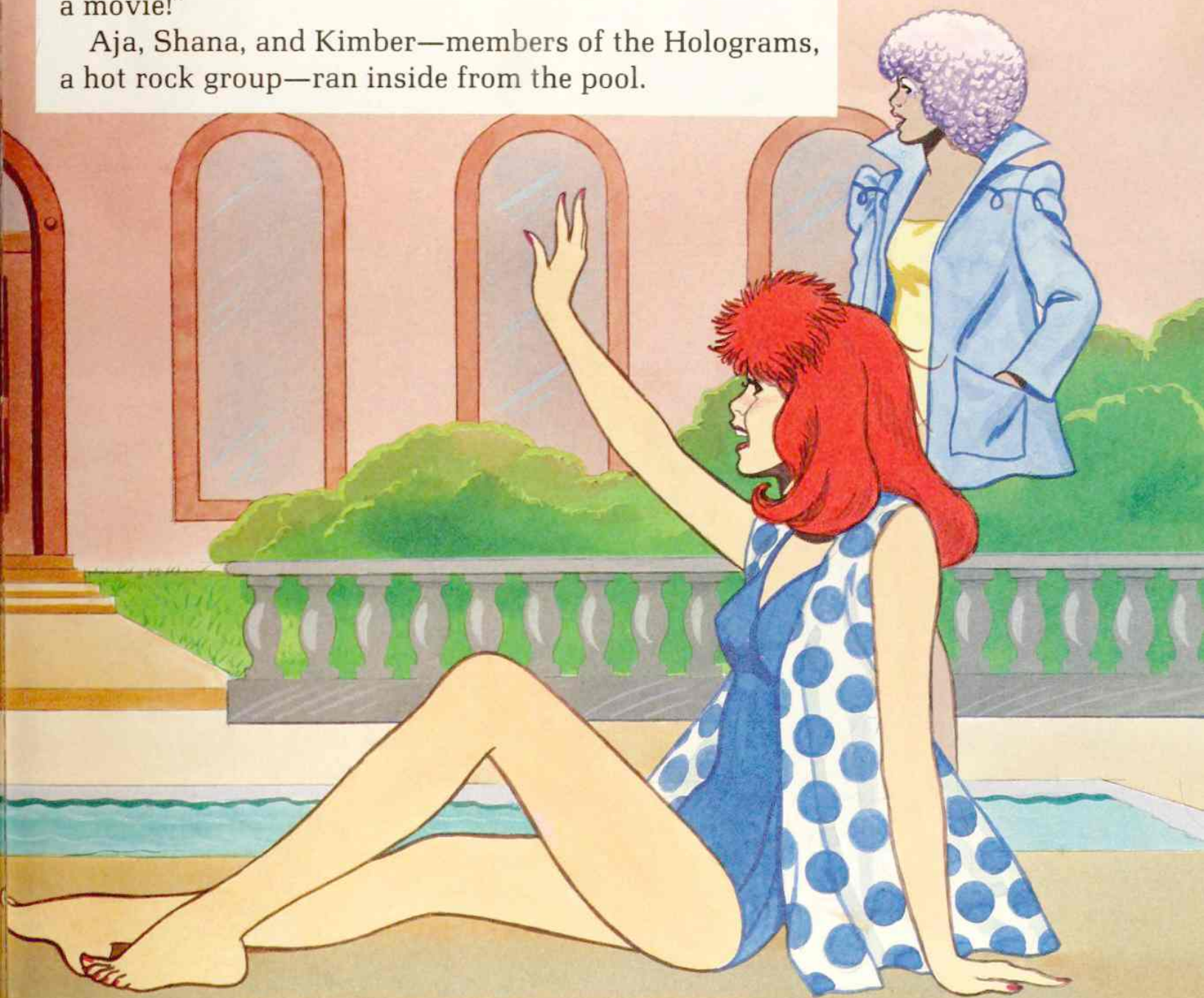
A B C D E F G H I J



One day, Jerrica Benton rushed home to Starlight Mansion with exciting news.

"Listen to this," she called to her friends. "Howard Sands wants to direct Jem and the Holograms in a movie!"

Aja, Shana, and Kimber—members of the Holograms, a hot rock group—ran inside from the pool.



"You're kidding," said Aja.

"That's fabulous," said Shana.

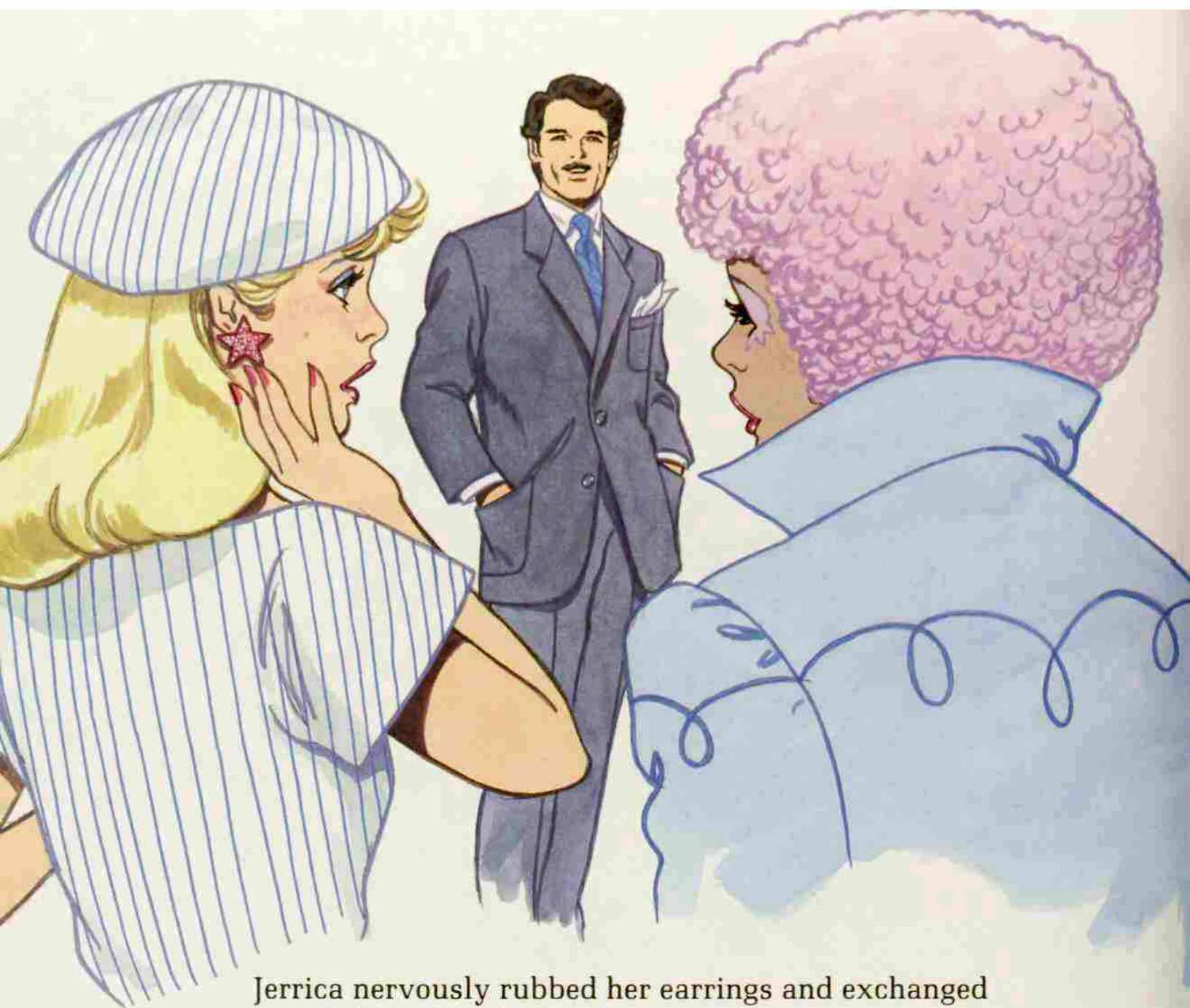
"What's the movie about?" asked Kimber.

"It's a behind-the-scenes look at how a music video is made," Jerrica replied. "There will be lots of great sets and costumes. I need to get more details from Howard, but he said it's definite."





The girls jumped up and down with excitement. Just then, Howard Sands arrived at the mansion. "I guess you've heard the good news," he said with a smile. "And best of all, I want Jerrica to be my assistant director. As head of Starlight Music, she knows Jem and the Holograms fairly well."



Jerrica nervously rubbed her earrings and exchanged worried glances with Shana.

"What's the matter, Jerrica?" Howard asked.

"You and Jem don't have problems getting along, do you? I hardly ever see you two together."

"No," Aja said quickly. "Jerrica and Jem get along like sisters."

The girls went to Jerrica's bedroom to talk.

"The only way we can keep Howard from finding out that *I'm Jem* is with these," Jerrica said. She looked at the earrings that glittered in her hands.

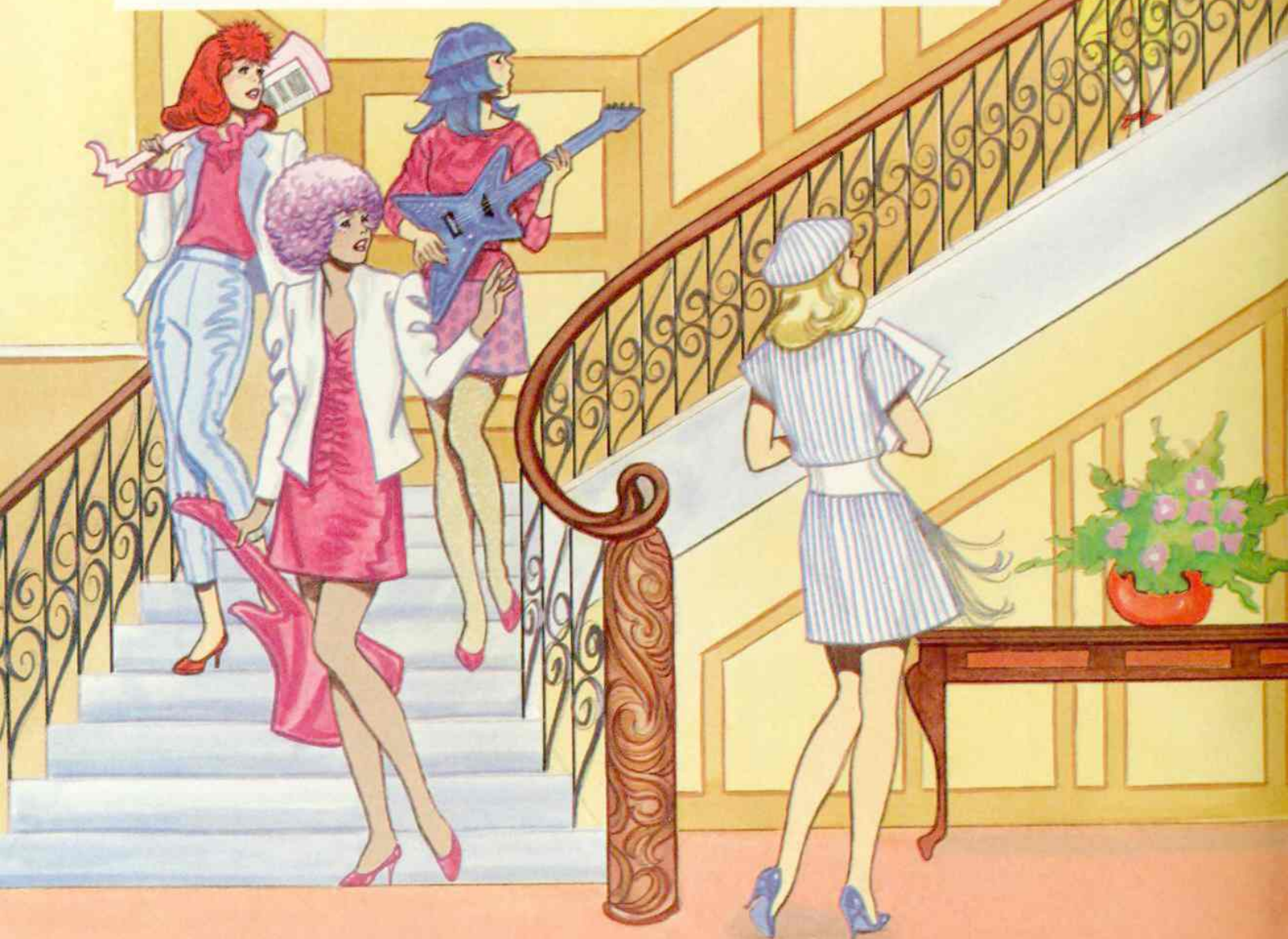
Just then, Ashley, one of the Starlight Girls, burst through the door. "Please come back later," Jerrica told her. "We have songs to rehearse."

Ashley felt bad. "Well, okay," she said, wondering how the girls could rehearse without Jem.



Like the other orphan girls who lived at the mansion, Ashley didn't know about Jerrica's double identity. With her special earrings, Jerrica could contact a holographic computer named Synergy and transform herself into Jem.

Ashley watched angrily as Jerrica led the way to the video room. "You're not superstars!" Ashley shouted. "I'll show you how famous you really are!"





"I hope Ashley is the only thing we have to worry about," Aja said with a sigh.

"That's for sure," said Shana. "But how are we going to protect Jem?"

"We'll use Synergy to her maximum force," Jerrica replied. "Then the secret will be safe."

The next day, everyone was busy on the set.

"This movie is going to be the biggest hit of the year!" Howard told Jerrica.

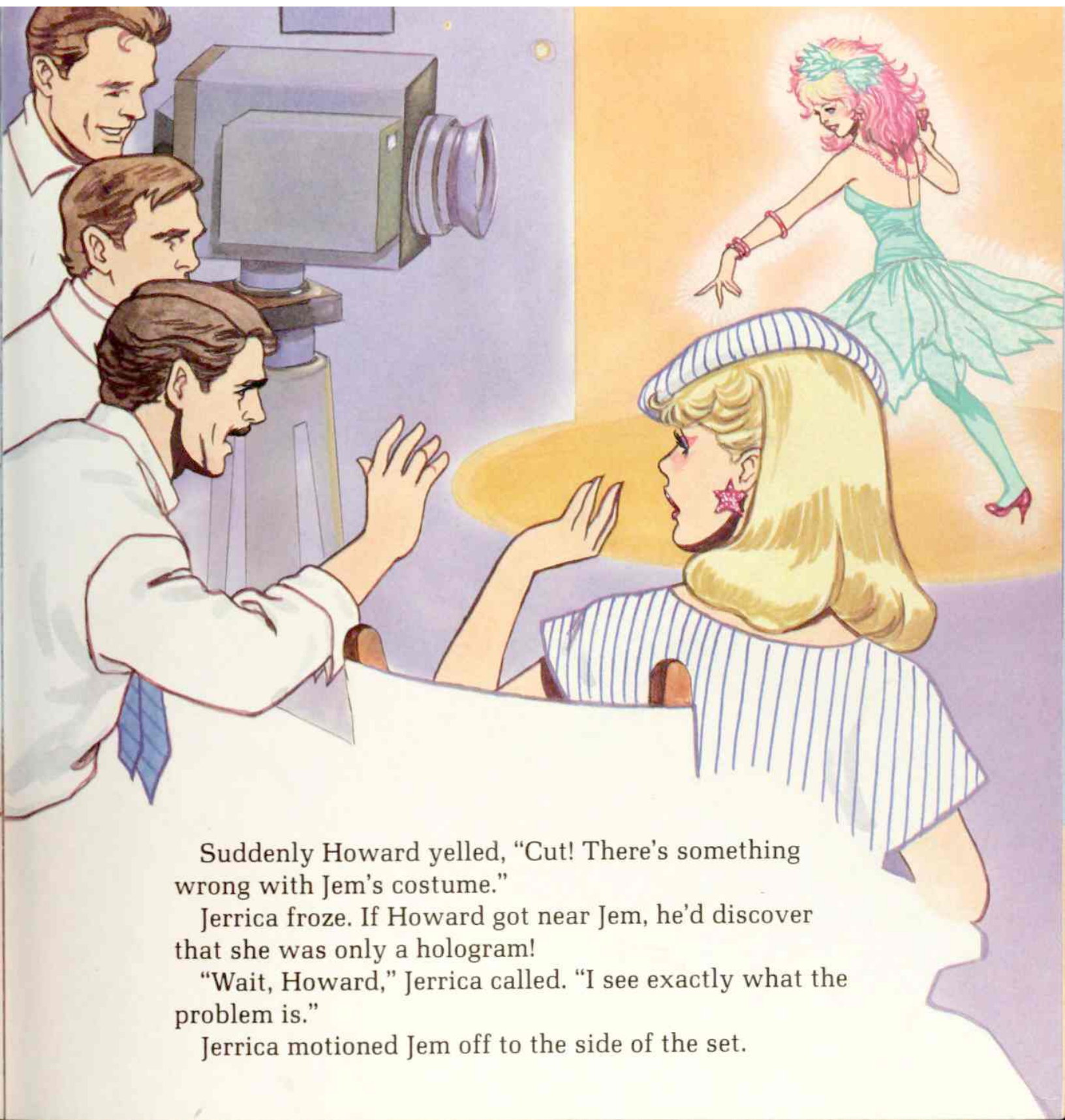
Jerrica smiled as she watched the Holograms get into their costumes. Jem was with them, too. Earlier, Jerrica had touched her earring and called on Synergy. Instantly, a hologram of Jem had been projected.





"That red satin sash looks terrific," Ashley told Shana. Jerrica had asked Ashley to help with the costumes, hoping that the job would keep her out of mischief. Soon Jem and the Holograms were back onstage, tuning their instruments.





Suddenly Howard yelled, "Cut! There's something wrong with Jem's costume."

Jerrica froze. If Howard got near Jem, he'd discover that she was only a hologram!

"Wait, Howard," Jerrica called. "I see exactly what the problem is."

Jerrica motioned Jem off to the side of the set.



Jerrica touched her earring. With Synergy's help, Jerrica was transformed into a hologram, while Jem became real.

Jem adjusted her own costume. Then Jerrica and Jem went back to their places on the set.



Howard called to Jerrica. "There, now the costume looks perfect."

"Thanks," said Jem. "With all this excitement, it's hard to keep everything straight."



Jem's little joke made the Holograms smile at each other, because they knew that Jem's true identity was still a secret.

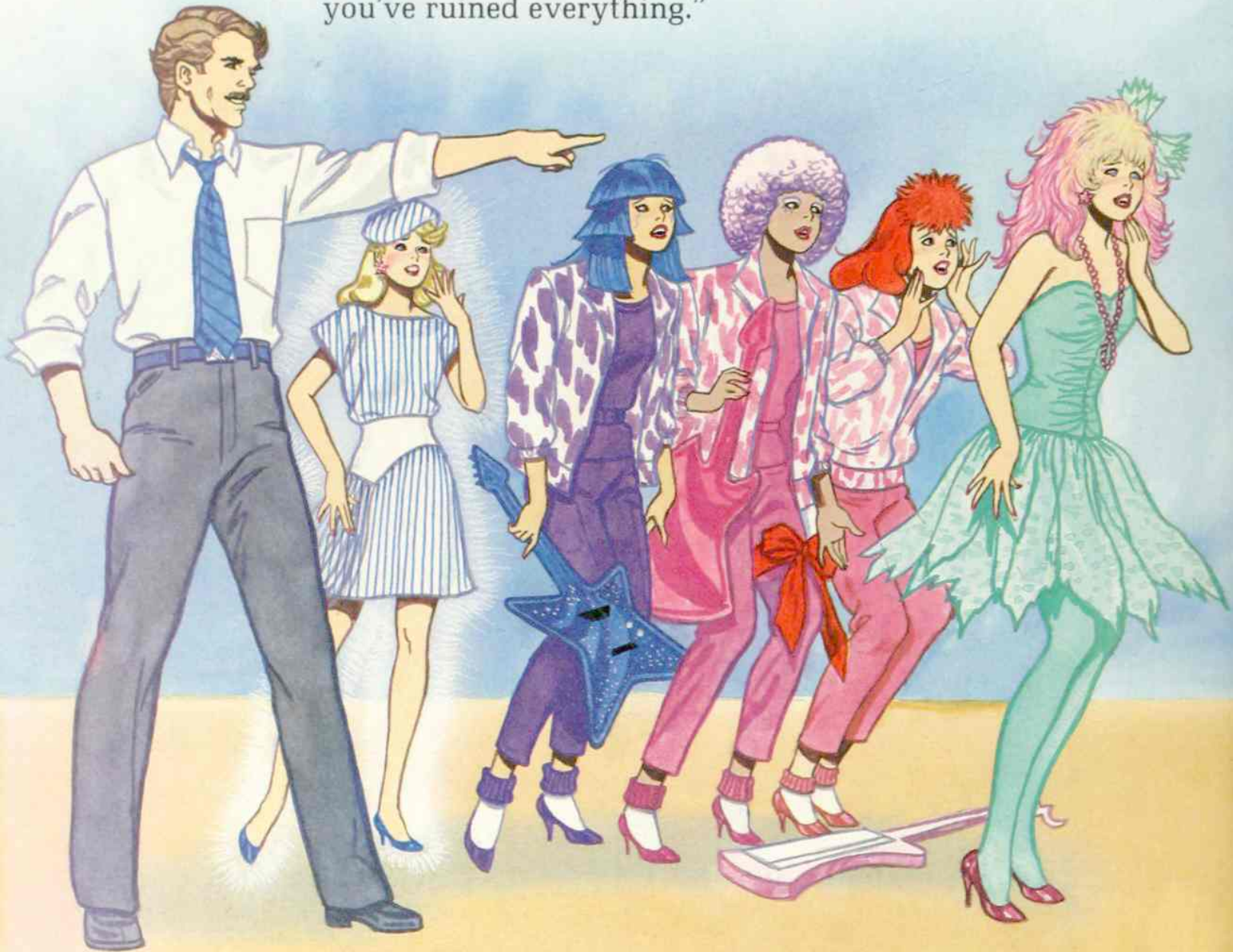
"Whew," Shana sighed. "Looks like Jem is safe so far."



It was time for a costume change. The Holograms rushed offstage.

When they arrived at the wardrobe area, they found Ashley pouring iridescent paint on their outfits! The girls' screams brought Jerrica and Howard running.

"You troublemaker!" Howard said to Ashley. "Now you've ruined everything."







Ashley began to cry. "I—I only got the job on this movie because Jerrica thought I was a pest," she said, sniffing. "Everyone pays attention to the Holograms, and no one pays attention to me."

Jem gently put her arm around Ashley's shoulders. "That isn't true," Jem said softly. "We care about you very much."

Jem held up one of the paint-spattered costumes. She looked at Jerrica and said, "With a little more paint and some special lighting, these costumes will look great, don't you think?"

Jerrica nodded.

Ashley felt better. She'd think twice before trying to hurt the Holograms again.







Jem and the Holograms had a great time repainting their costumes with fast-drying iridescent paint. Then Jem and Jerrica traded places again. Everyone went back to the set.

Howard was delighted with their new look. He turned to Jerrica and said, "Congratulations."

Jerrica said, "I'm glad everything worked out so well."

Rio, the Holograms' manager and Jerrica's boyfriend, arrived just in time to hear the big finale song, "Magic." "Howard said that you and Jem work together like magic," Rio said softly to Jerrica.

Jerrica smiled while a line from the song filled the air: "...a secret kind of magic...."





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